

component including construction of a Yatri Niwas at parsuram Kund in Arunachal Pradesh at a total cost of Rs. 30.00 lakhs with central component of Rs. 24.00 lakhs.

Bulk purchase of books from writers

3233. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY:

SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme to assist the writers through bulk purchase of books;

(b) if so, what was the allocation made during the last three financial years;

(c) what is the proportion of funds allotted for southern languages; and

(d) whether there is any other scheme through which the writers are encouraged by bulk purchases?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) There is no scheme (under the Deptt. of Culture) to assist writers directly through bulk purchase of books. However, the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Calcutta, a fully funded autonomous body under the Deptt. of Culture, Govt. of India which is engaged in the development of Public Library services and in the promotion of reading habits all over the country purchases books under its schemes of (1) book assistance, (2) the scheme for financial assistance for Voluntary Organizations and (3) the scheme for children's libraries.

(b) Year-wise expenditure incurred during the last three years for purchase of books is given below:

1997-98 Rs. 326.37 lakh

1998-99 Rs. 532.81 lakh

1999-2000 Rs. 438.11 lakh

(c) During 2000-01 26% has been earmarked for purchase of books for the Southern Region.

(d) There is no such scheme.